

Education Committee Hearing
March 3, 2021
SB948
Melissa Baez
Hartford, CT 06141

My name is Melissa Baez. I am a mother of 5 Achievement First scholars and an advocate for my community. I am here today in front of you to ask you an important question. Do ALL the children in the state of Connecticut matter to you? Do you think it is right, especially in the middle of a pandemic, to deny any student what they need or deserve academically? If your answer is yes, then we are all on the same page.

I was heartened to hear Governor Lamont called for our public charter school scholars to receive the same foundational amount as all other public school students across our great state. And though there is so much more work to be done, that is a necessary first step. I can not imagine any of you looking in the eyes of a parent who chose a public charter school as the best fit for THEIR child and telling them you don't think they deserve to be funded equitably. Those same public charter schools family voted you into office to do right by them, and I hope that will meet their expectations.

We have been put through the wringer over the last year. Still, now we have a real opportunity to deliver some real justice and ray of light to our scholars who are doing their best in unprecedented times. Show them that you see them, believe in them, and want the very best for them by ensuring they are funded equally and equitably.

Malcolm X said: "Education Is the passport to the future for tomorrow belongs to hose who prepare for it today." Our scholars are prepared to show you how great they can be. Please help them get there.

Thank you in advance for your courage to do right by ALL CT kids.

With Gratitude,
Melissa Baez
Hartford, CT 06141